

OF THE HOUSING COMMISSION (FEBRUARY 10)

ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION: PERCO, GRACA, CRADORA,
RHODES LRC, P.E.A.C

OBSERVERS: COSAS, CRADORA, AYC

CONVENOR: CHAMPION GALELA (PERCO)

CHAIRPERSON: PHILA NKAYL (GRACA)

THE RULES OF THE COMMISSION AS SET OUT AT THE LAST SESSION OF
THE RGC WERE ADOPTED AS THE AGENDA
AGENDA

1) RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATE THE HOUSING SITUATION IN SA TO BE
ABLE TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUES - THE ISSUES TO BE RESEARCHED ARE
THOSE WHICH CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS FEEL ARE RELATED TO THE STRUGGLES
THEY TAKE UP

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

a) RENTALS: - HOW SHOULD RENTS BE DETERMINED? RENT REMISSION FOR
GROUPS SUCH AS PENSIONERS AND THE UNEMPLOYED

b) EVILCTIONS

c) ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN RANGS FROM RENTS COLLECTED
BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

d) SERVICE CHARGES: - DOES THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES, eg
HEALTH, WATER, ELECTRICITY, FALL UNDER THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF
THE GOVERNMENT, AND SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT NOT ~~PROVIDE~~ SUBSIDISE
THESE SERVICES?

e) LODGERS FEES: - WHAT IS BEING DONE WITH THIS MONEY WHICH IS
SUPPOSED TO BE USED FOR THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF
HOUSING (NO HOUSES IN GRAHAMSTOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE EVER BEEN
BUILT WITH LODGERS FEES)

f) BOTTLE STORES AND BEERHALLS: - WHERE DO THEIR PROFITS GO? WHEN
THEY WERE UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF ECAB THE PROFITS WERE
MEANT TO SUBSIDISE HOUSING

g) REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE: - WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS THIS?

FOR EXAMPLE, ARE MATERIALS BEING SENT TO VARIOUS CENTRES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELAR
AN ASSESSMENT AND COMPARISON OF THE VIABILITY OF DIFFERENT HOUSING SCHEMES: 99 YEAR LEASE-HOLD, FREE-HOLD, LETTING SCHEMES, BUYING SCHEMES

THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH THE BUYING OF HOUSES SUCH AS CORE HOUSES AT MOTHERWELL

STATISTICS ON THE SHORTAGE OF HOUSING, INCLUDING A DOOR-TO-DOOR SURVEY OF OVERCROWDING IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS

POOR SERVICES: - FULLY QUALIFIED RESIDENTS SUCH AS SHACK-ELLERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN STATUS AS HOME-OWNERS AND MADE TO PAY SERVICE FEES, BUT ARE PROVIDED WITH HOPELESSLY INADEQUATE SERVICES

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION OF SO-CALLED SUPERINTENDANTS

GOVERNMENT STATISTICS ON HOUSING ARE BEING COLLECTED DURING THE CURRENT CENSUS. DOES THIS INDICATE THAT SOMETHING IS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE HOUSING SHORTAGE?

RESEARCH NEEDS TO BE DONE ON FORCED REMOVALS AND THE CONTROL OF THE ADMINISTRATION BOARD OVER WHERE PEOPLE MAY LIVE IN AN AREA.

DRAW UP FACT SHEETS, BROCHURES, DOCUMENTS ETC ON THE HOUSING SITUATION - THIS IS DEALT WITH UNDER POINT 1

INFORM ORGANISATIONS AND PEOPLE ABOUT THESE ISSUES: THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO ORGANISE PEOPLE AROUND THE HOUSING ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED BY THE RESEARCH. IT WILL BE THE TASK OF THE VARIOUS CIVIL ORGANISATIONS TO EDUCATE AND ORGANISE RESIDENTS IN THEIR AREAS

COORDINATE AND GUIDE HOUSING STRUGGLES IN THE REGION AND POSSIBLY ORGANISE A REGIONAL CONFERENCE: AN UMBRELLA BODY

3

RISED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE UDF CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS
THE REGION IS THE ONLY EFFECTIVE MEANS BY WHICH THE
HOUSING STRUGGLE CAN BE COORDINATED AND GUIDED THROUGHOUT THE
REGION. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE COMMISSION TO LOOK AT WHY
AN ATTEMPT TO SET UP SUCH A BODY LAST YEAR FAILED (PROBLEMS
WITH TRANSPORT, FUNDS AND SOME CIVIC BODIES BEING AGAINST
THE UDF AT THE TIME) AND HOW THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME.
CIVIC ORGANISATIONS WILL HAVE TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A SUITABLE STRUCTURE. THE QUESTIONS ARISE AS TO WHETHER THE
TIME IS NOW RIPE FOR SETTING UP SUCH A BODY, AND WHETHER
CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT SUCH A
STRUCTURE OVER SUCH A WIDESPREAD AREA.

5. LINK UP WITH EXISTING CIVIL STRUCTURES IN OTHER REGIONS
THIS IS RELATED TO THE SETTING UP OF AN UMBRELLA BODY IN THE
EASTERN CAPE REGION, DEALT WITH UNDER POINT 4.

6. RESEARCH THE AREA OF REMOVALS AND THE SITUATION SPECIFICALLY
IN RURAL AREAS: THIS WAS DEALT WITH UNDER THE RESEARCH
PROPOSALS. MOST RURAL REMOVALS FALL UNDER THE BORDER
REGION. THE QUESTIONS AROSE AS TO WHETHER THE COMMISSION
SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH BOTH URBAN AND RURAL REMOVALS
AND WHETHER THE PROBLEM OF FORCED REMOVALS WAS RELEVANT
TO URBAN AREAS. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF FORCED REMOVALS BY
INDIRECT MEANS IN THE FORT ELIZABETH AREA WERE PINPOINTED:
REMOVAL OF PEOPLE FROM THE WALMER TOWNSHIP TO ZWIDE;
REMOVAL OF COLOURED FROM THEIR OLD LOCATION WHERE THEY
LIVED WITH AFRICANS TO GROUP AREAS; REMOVAL OF INDIANS
OUT OF TOWN TO GROUP AREAS. IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED THAT
THE ISSUE OF FORCED REMOVALS WAS RELEVANT TO URBAN AREAS.
PEOPLE FACING REMOVAL NEED TO BE ORGANISED TO TAKE UP THE

RE, AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTED. INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE RESEARCH MUST BE USED TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS AS TO THEIR RIGHTS. THE UDF, THROUGH ITS AFFILIATES, MUST DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION TO CREATE RESISTANCE TO AND PUBLICITY FOR BOTH URBAN AND RURAL REMOVALS.

INVESTIGATE HOW THE HOUSING ISSUE CAN BE RELATED TO THE REMOVALS QUESTION AND PROVIDE COMMON STRATEGIES WHERE POSSIBLE: IT NEEDS TO BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE HOUSING PROBLEM IS USED STRATEGICALLY AS A MEANS OF INFLUX CONTROL AND TO JUSTIFY AND FACILITATE REMOVALS. A COMBINED STRATEGY IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL.

HIGHLIGHT THE PLIGHT OF RESETTLED PEOPLE AND BUILD A STRONG PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN: THE ISSUE OF REMOVALS AND THE PLIGHT OF RESETTLED PEOPLE IS NOT DISCUSSED ENOUGH IN THE TOWNSHIPS. THERE SHOULD BE A CONTINUOUS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN CIVIC ORGANISATIONS IN THE VARIOUS AREAS AND BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, SO THAT THE ISSUES CAN BE BROUGHT UP AT THE RALLIES OF ^{THE INDIVIDUAL} CIVIC ORGANISATIONS AND AWARENESS OF THE STRUGGLE PROMOTED. DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGNS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AND THE ANGER OF RESETTLED PEOPLE USED TO BUILD UP ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH.

THE COMMISSION DOES NOT SEE A NECESSITY TO SPLIT INTO TWO SECTIONS TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OF HOUSING AND REMOVALS. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION MEET AGAIN ~~BE~~ AFTER THE RGC TO DISCUSS MEANS OF EFFECTING SOME OF THE PROPOSALS.

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